IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating in a time-domain wavelength interleaved network having a hub node, comprising:

transmitting substantially all communications through said hub node without changing a wavelength of said communications at said hub node; and

synchronizing a transmission and reception of a message such that a message sent in a transmitting time-slot k by a node N_i is received by a node N_j in a receiving time-slot k.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of synchronizing a transmission and reception of a message such that a message sent in a time-slot k by a node N_i is received by a node N_j in said time-slot k.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said synchronizing step is performed by said hub node.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said hub node imposes a timing reference.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said hub node recovers from a link failure by shifting transmission times of nodes separated from said hub node by said failed link.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating performed by an interior node in a time-domain wavelength interleaved network having a hub node, comprising:

sending substantially all communications received from said hub node having a wavelength indicating said communication is destined for another node on all branches outward from said hub node without changing a wavelength of said communication at said hub node, wherein a transmission and reception of a message are synchronized such that a message sent in a transmitting

time-slot k by a node N_i is received by a node N_j in a receiving time-slot k.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of synchronizing a transmission and reception of a message such that a message sent in a time-slot k by a node N_i is received by a node N_j in said time-slot k.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said synchronizing step is performed by said hub node.

9. (Currently Amended) A node in a time-domain wavelength interleaved network having a hub node, comprising:

a tunable laser directed toward said hub node; and

a wavelength dropper for dropping signals having a wavelength associated with said node only from a fiber coming from said hub node, wherein substantially all communications in said time-domain wavelength interleaved network are transmitted through said hub node without changing a wavelength of said communications at said hub node and wherein a transmission and reception of a message are synchronized such that a message sent in a transmitting time-slot k by a node N_i is received by a node N_j in a receiving time-slot k.

10. (Original) The node of claim 9, where a transmission and reception of a message are synchronized such that a message sent in a time-slot k by a node N_i is received by a node N_j in said time-slot k.

11. (Original) The node of claim 9, wherein said hub node imposes a timing reference.

12. (Original) The node of claim 9, wherein said hub node performs a time-slot scheduling without regard to a delay in said time-domain wavelength interleaved network.

13. (Original) The node of claim 9, wherein said hub node recovers from a link failure by shifting transmission times of nodes separated from said hub node by said failed link.

14. (Currently Amended) A time-domain wavelength interleaved network, comprising:

a plurality of nodes, including a hub node, wherein substantially all communications in said time-domain wavelength interleaved network pass through said hub node without changing a wavelength of said communications at said hub node and wherein a transmission and reception of a message are synchronized such that a message sent in a transmitting time-slot k by a node N_i is received by a node N_j in a receiving time-slot k.

15. (Original) The time-domain wavelength interleaved network of claim 14, where a transmission and reception of a message are synchronized such that a message sent in a time-slot k by a node N_i is received by a node N_j in said time-slot k.

16. (Original) The time-domain wavelength interleaved network of claim 14, wherein said hub node imposes a timing reference.

17. (Original) The time-domain wavelength interleaved network of claim 14, wherein said hub node performs a time-slot scheduling without regard to a delay in said time-domain wavelength interleaved network.

18. (Original) The time-domain wavelength interleaved network of claim 14, wherein said hub node recovers from a link failure by shifting transmission times of nodes separated from said hub node by said failed link.

19. (Original) The time-domain wavelength interleaved network of claim 14, further comprising a plurality of said nodes interconnected in a tree configuration.

20. (Original) The time-domain wavelength interleaved network of claim 14, further comprising a plurality of trees of nodes, each of said trees having a hub node, each of said hub nodes interconnected in a ring configuration.